

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY	DOCKET NO. RPU-04-1
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**ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION**

(Issued July 19, 2004)

On July 13, 2004, the Wapello County Board of Supervisors (Wapello) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a petition to intervene in Interstate Power and Light Company's (IPL) pending electric rate case, identified as Docket No. RPU-04-1. No objections to the petition to intervene have been filed.

In support of its petition to intervene, Wapello states that most of its citizens are located in IPL's southern pricing zone and that rate equalization of IPL's pricing zones would have negative impacts on Wapello County. Wapello said it does not desire or expect to expand the scope of the proceeding and files its petition to intervene with the understanding that no regulatory costs will be assessed or allocated to Wapello.

The petition to intervene will be granted. Pursuant to 199 IAC 7.2(7)"d," a county may intervene in a Board proceeding as a matter of right. However, as a late-filed intervenor, Wapello must operate under the existing procedural schedule.

Pursuant to the Board's rules, Wapello will have the opportunity to file comments on the non-unanimous revenue requirement settlement filed on July 13, 2004.

In addition, Wapello in its petition indicated that "[s]hould the scope of the case be expanded to include rebalancing and/or rate design, Wapello County is particularly interested in participating. . . ." The proceeding already includes these issues. Pursuant to the Board's July 9, 2004, "Order Granting Motion to Hold Procedural Schedule in Abeyance," testimony on non-revenue requirement issues, including rate rebalancing or equalization and rate design, is due on or before July 30, 2004. All other aspects of the procedural schedule are contained in the Board's April 13, 2004, order docketing the rate filing and setting a procedural schedule.

Since IPL filed its rate case on March 15, 2004, the case has generated significant publicity and comment. The Board presided over ten consumer comment hearings throughout IPL's service territory. In these hearings, the primary topic was rate rebalancing or rate equalization. One of these comment hearings was held in the county seat of Wapello County, Ottumwa, on May 27, 2004. Approximately 650 persons, many of them from Wapello County, attended that hearing to present their views on rate equalization to the Board. It has been clear from the inception of this case that rate rebalancing would be a primary issue, and it was most recently addressed in the Board's order setting temporary rates issued on June 11, 2004.

Finally, Wapello indicated that it is filing the petition to intervene with the expectation that no regulatory costs would be assessed to it. Based on Wapello's

representation that it does not “anticipate or desire to expand the scope of the proceedings,” the Board does not expect to allocate or assess any cost of this proceeding to Wapello. However, the final regulatory cost allocation will be made at the end of the proceeding based upon the activities of the parties.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

The petition to intervene filed by the Wapello County Board of Supervisors on July 13, 2004, is granted.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2004.